



Orlitsky vs. Tuzov

24.01 – 4.02.2020

On January 24, 2020, the Orlitsky vs. Tuzov exhibition will open at the GUM-Red-Line Gallery. It will be the first public “battle” between two young artists, Maxim Orlitsky and Ivan Tuzov, working in completely different genres and techniques.

As Hegel once wrote, the main thing in painting is color and the form of space restriction. **Maxim Orlitsky** is a painter in the Hegelian sense of the word since he uses color as a primary substance. The form of the painting is also important to him, so he often divides one artwork into several pieces.

Ivan Tuzov is the author of the post-Internet era. He uses pixelated images. Perception, focused on memes and icons, sets the visual paradigm of our time. The new symbolic structures are similar to hieroglyphs. Tuzov’s hieroglyphs are grotesque and ironic.

The austerity of one artist balances the critique of the other. Ivan Tuzov’s works desacralize the sublime Soviet space. The pieces by Maxim Orlitsky revive the concept of a Painting as spiritual knowledge and a ritual. The works of Tuzov and Orlitsky collide within the space of GUM. The fundamental difference between the two artistic systems is prominently underlined during the art battle.

An art battle is a new type of performance art. A duel involving brushes and paints visualizes competition: two artists fight one other to the glorious end. In the project Orlitsky vs., Orlitsky each time opposes another artist, «improving» the opponent’s work, while the a competitor does the same with Orlitsky’s artwork.

The art battle demystifies art production. The attention of the audience shifts from the object to the subject – from works to their creators. The general public is now allowed to observe the process of painting. The very gesture of applying paint to the canvas is presented to the viewer as artistic.

The exhibition occupies two halls, one of which houses works by Max Orlitsky, and the other pieces by Ivan Tuzov. The art battle will take place on stage during the vernissage. Two works created during the art battle will be permanently exhibited in the gallery after the opening. Three days after the opening, the edited video of the performance will be broadcast continuously on the gallery screen until the end of the exhibition.

Mikhail Sidlin curates the exhibition.

- The grand opening is on January 24, 2020, at 19:00.
- The art battle of Maxim Orlitsky and Ivan Tuzov will take place on January 24, 2020, from 19:00 to 21:00. Mikhail Sidlin will be the presenter.
- The curator-led tour of the exhibition will take place on January 31, 2020.
- The exhibition runs until February 4, 2020.

About the Gallery:

GUM-Red-Line Gallery occupies a space of 280 SM in the front of GUM. Its windows exit onto the Red Square. Besides the spectacular architecture of Alexander Pomerantsev, these halls bear an extraordinary historical heritage – this is the actual location of the Henry Brocard Gallery that was opened right here in 1893. The exhibitions hosted by Brocard, a notable Moscow perfume magnate and collector, were presented here for almost ten years and turned GUM – at the time known as the Upper Trading Rows – from a prestigious shopping center into one of the most popular leisure venues for Muscovites. The concerts and artistic soirées that were held here became quite popular and gave a boost to the prestige of the shopping center. Contemporary art found its place in the Soviet GUM as well – Vladimir Mayakovsky and Alexander Rodchenko managed the department store's advertisement campaigns at the beginning of the 1920s.



While maintaining the legacy of the past, GUM-Red-Line Gallery is seen as the starting point for the cultivation of a new cultural space, where GUM customers can get an insight into contemporary art.

GUM is not only the department store No. 1 for Muscovites, but it is also an essential landmark for visiting tourists: GUM annually receives more than 30 million people. It is an architectural monument and at the same time a comfortable space, an art gallery, and an event venue.

The Gallery, located on the Third Floor, First Line, is open every day, from 10 till 22.

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